

**REMARKS**

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 26, 27, 29, 30, 33, 34, 40, and 41.

Claims 2, 31, and 44 are amended to improve the readability of the claims.

Claims 1, 28, and 37 are amended to more particularly point out the nature of the claimed invention. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found, for example, in the last 3 lines of paragraph 0013. Support for the amendment to claim 28 can be found in claim 28 as originally filed. Support for the amendment to claim 37 can be found, for example, in the claims as originally filed and in paragraphs 0015 and 0018.

Claims 38, 39, 42, and 45 are amended for consistency with the amendments to claim 37.

Claims 30 and 35 are amended for consistency with claim language of claim 28.

New claims 46 – 56 are added. Support for new claims 46 – 56 can be found, for example, in the claims as originally filed and paragraphs 0013, 0015, 0017, and 0018 of the specification.

Claims 23 and 25 are amended to change their dependency to claims 21 and 24 respectively. This amendment renders moot the rejection of claims 23 and 25 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph for lack of proper antecedent basis for claimed features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

The rejection of claims 1 – 4, 7 – 11, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23 – 25, 28, 31, 32, 35 – 39, and 42 – 45 under 35 USC §102(e) over Elfersy et al., US Patent 6,113,815 is respectfully traversed. Elfersy et al. describes water-stabilized organosilane compositions having biocidal activity. The compositions of Elfersy et al. can optionally contain an ionic or non-ionic surfactant. The compositions of Elfersy can also be applied to filters. Note that the compositions of Elfersy et al. all contain metal (in the form of silicon) and all contain at least one non-organic component (organosilane).

Claim 1 as amended requires application of a water-soluble, metal free dielectric liquid formulation onto an air filter. By contrast, the compositions of Elfersy et al. all contain organosilane compounds. Due to the presence of silicon, the compositions of Elfersy et al. are not metal free formulations. Thus, Elfersy et al. fails to describe or suggest application of a water-soluble, metal free dielectric liquid formulation to an air filter as required by claim 1 and the claims dependent from claim 1.

Claim 28 as amended requires a formulation containing both an organic, non-ionic, water-soluble dielectric component and an organic, non-ionic, water-soluble biocide component. The only biocides disclosed in Elfersy et al. are organosilane compounds. Thus, Elfersy et al. does not describe or suggest an organic biocide component, as required in claim 28 and the claims dependent from claim 28.

Claim 37 as amended requires a liquid formulation consisting essentially of a water-soluble organic dielectric component; optionally, deionized water; and optionally, one or more additional organic components. By contrast, all of the compositions of Elfersy et al. include organosilanes. As organosilanes are not organic compounds, Elfersy et al. fails to describe or suggest the formulation of claim 37, which includes only organic compounds and optionally deionized water. Claims 38 – 45 also disclose formulations that include only organic compounds and possibly deionized water, and thus Elfersy et al. also fails to describe or suggest these claimed formulations.

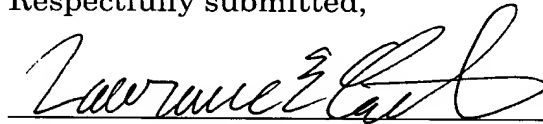
Based on at least the above reasons, Elfersy et al. fails to describe or suggest the claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 – 4, 7 – 11, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23 – 25, 28, 31, 32, 35 – 39, and 42 – 45 over Elfersy et al. is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt, favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #029211.50189).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James F. McKeown", written over a horizontal line.

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